The Aerospace States Association

2200 Wilson Blvd. #102-249, Arlington, VA 22209
Tel: 703-522-7745 E:mail: asa52@erols.com
www.aerostates.org

October 13, 2005

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

Re: Spectrum in the 2 GHz MSS Band, IB Docket No. 05-221

I am writing on behalf of the Aerospace States Association (ASA) to request that the Federal Communications Commission move expeditiously to ensure that sufficient satellite capacity is available in the 2 GHz Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) band to support the requirements of America's first responders. The assignment of the entire band to the existing MSS licensees will ensure that Americans and emergency responders have access to hybrid satellite/terrestrial systems that will provide ubiquitous, reliable and interoperable high-speed data and voice services throughout America.

ASA is a bi-partisan organization of Lieutenant Governors and state-appointed delegates. It was formed to promote a state-based perspective in federal aerospace policy development and support aerospace initiatives that enhance student/teacher education outreach and economic development opportunities.

One of the lessons we have learned through our recent national disasters is that we must have reliable communications in times of crisis. Satellites are a big part of the answer. Unfortunately, because of their expense, few emergency management agencies have been able to afford them for primary communications during a crisis.

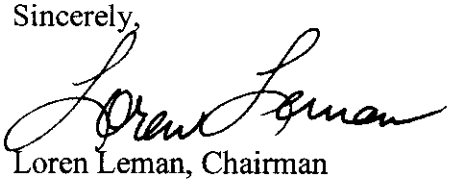
However, the 2 GHz licensees are constructing satellite systems with an ancillary terrestrial component to address this issue. By utilizing a terrestrial component, these satellite systems are able to capture the economies of scale for equipment manufacture that will result in chip sets and handsets that are priced competitively with today's terrestrial equipment. Further, by having an integrated satellite-terrestrial end-user device, the handset will be able to switch seamlessly and transparently between the terrestrial and satellite network. Most importantly, to support the advanced applications that are being developed today for emergency response and homeland security, the 2 GHz systems must be given sufficient capacity to support them.

It is essential that we have a unified vision of how to ensure reliable communications during emergencies and for homeland security. Our governments should encourage private

investment in new communications technologies, especially next generation satellite systems, to ensure that we have the communications tools available to support public safety. Government can also expedite these new technologies by ensuring that they have access to sufficient resources to deliver services that Americans require.

The FCC has the ability to assign the full compliment of spectrum in the 2 GHz band to existing licensees to provide sufficient capacity for emergency communications. Assigning any less spectrum will jeopardize the ability of these systems to support the critical next generation communications applications that are currently being developed.

Sincerely,



Loren Leman, Chairman
Aerospace States Association
Lieutenant Governor, Alaska